(a) whether Government would accord approval for electrification necessitated by doubling of Jaipur-Phulera, Jaipur-Dausa-Bandikui, Rewari-Alwar sections of North-Western Railway and Ajmer-Phulera of Rewari-Ajmer section; and

(b) whether approval for electrification of Bandikui-Agra section would also be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (b) Electrification of tracks is considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity. At present, there is no proposal to electrify Jaipur-Phulera, Jaipur-Dausa-Bandikui, Rewari-Alwar, Ajmer-Phulera of Rewari-Ajmer section and Bandikui-Agra sections of North Western Railway.

Removal of Chairmen of All Railway Recruitment Boards

1799. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the serving Chairmen of Railway Recruitment Boards have been removed recently;

(b) whether they had a fixed term to serve;

(c) if so, whether they have been removed before time because of their acts of omission/commission;

(d) if so, the types of charges against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons for their removal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir. The officers working as Chairmen, Railway Recruitment Boards have recently been transferred to their respective cadres.

(b) There is no fixed tenure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The officers are transferred due to administrative exigencies. Group 'A' Railway Officers have All India Service Liability as laid down in the Recruitment Rules and acceptance thereof is a precondition before accepting appointment on the Railways. Moreover in terms of Rule No. 226 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code Vol.-I which are statutory Rules framed by the President under Article 309 of the Constitution of India, Group 'A' officers can be transferred from one Railway/Unit/Organization to another in administrative interest by the Competent Authority.

Financing the cost of land acquisition for ROBs in Kerala

1800. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Government of Kerala is finding it difficult to finance the cost of land acquisition for the Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) in the State due to prohibitive land value in the State;

(b) whether the State Government has requested Railways to share the land acquisition cost with the State Government on a 1:1 ratio; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Kerala State Government has requested to consider possibility of sharing land acquisition cost with State Government at the ratio of 1:1 citing reasons that land is scarce and cost of acquisition is prohibitive in Kerala, in comparison to other States and State Government is finding it difficult to finance the cost of land acquisition for all the proposed works of Road over/under bridges. Due to heavy liability in hand with Railways (as 830 works already sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the country) with meagre allocation of funds from Central Road Fund for construction of Road over/under bridges, it has not been found feasible for Railways to share cost of land acquisition also at the ratio of 1:1 under extant rules. State Government has been apprised of the position.

Green toilets in trains

1801. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is pursuing plans of retrofitting rail coaches of important passenger trains with green toilets for creating a biological environment friendly ambience;

(b) if so, whether this project would be undertaken through indigenously developed techniques or foreign consultants/construction companies would be involved; and

(c) whether the technology recently developed by Research and Design Organization has undergone any field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways are in the process of developing environment friendly "green toilets" and conducting field trials before considering fitment/retrofitment in coaches as a regular measure. The acquiring of technology/design of such toilet system is not restricted to indigenous parties.

(c) The prototype environment friendly toilet system developed by Research, Design and Standards Organisation is presently undergoing field trials in Southern Railway.